

IN THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

1. (original) A spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, the assembly comprising:

a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end, and

A2 at least one end cap coupled to at least one of the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end, each of the at least one end caps including an inner end facing the spacer, an outer end having a serrated surface, and a cap side wall extending between the inner and outer ends and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a mechanical connection between the at least one cap and the spacer,

wherein the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of valleys, and

wherein when the at least one cap is connected to the spacer, the number of peaks are positioned at a vertical height either above the upper spacer end or below the lower spacer end.

2. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the cap side wall converges from the outer end toward the inner end.

3. (original) The spacer assembly of claim 1, wherein the inner end of the at least one end cap is positioned at a vertical height which is interposed between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end when the at least one end cap is connected to the spacer.

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4. (original) The spacer assembly of claim 1, wherein:
the upper spacer end has a number of detents defined therein,
the at least one end cap further includes a number of projections, and
the number of projections are respectively positioned within the number of detents when the at least one end cap is connected to the spacer.

5. (original) A spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, comprising:
a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end; and

an end cap including (i) an inner end facing the spacer, (ii) an outer end having a serrated surface, and (iii) a cap side wall extending between the inner end and the outer end and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a mechanical connection between the end cap and the spacer,

wherein the outer end of the end cap having the serrated surface is positioned at a vertical height above the upper spacer end when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

6. (original) The spacer assembly of claim 5, wherein the inner end of the end cap is positioned at a vertical height which is interposed between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

7. (original) The spacer assembly of claim 5, wherein:
the upper spacer end has a number of detents defined therein,
the end cap further includes a number of projections, and
the number of projections are respectively positioned within the number of detents when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

8. (original) The spacer assembly of claim 5, wherein:
the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of valleys,
and
the number of peaks are positioned at a vertical height above the upper
spacer end when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

9. (original) A spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, comprising:
a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer
end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the
lower spacer end; and

an end cap including (i) an inner end facing the spacer, (ii) an outer end
having a serrated surface, and (iii) a cap side wall extending between the inner
end and the outer end and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a
mechanical connection between the end cap and the spacer,

wherein the outer end of the end cap having the serrated surface is
positioned at a vertical height below the lower spacer end when the end cap is
connected to the spacer.

10. (original) The spacer assembly of claim 9, wherein the inner end of
the end cap is positioned at a vertical height which is interposed between the
upper spacer end and the lower spacer end when the end cap is connected to
the spacer.

11. (original) The spacer assembly of claim 9, wherein:
the lower spacer end has a number of detents defined therein,
the end cap further includes a number of projections, and
the number of projections are respectively positioned within the number of
detents when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

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12. (original) The spacer assembly of claim 9, wherein:
the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of valleys,
and
the number of peaks are positioned at a vertical height below the lower
spacer end when the end cap is connected to the spacer.
